

An Essay
on
Allopathic and Homoeopathic
Obstetrics

Respectfully Submitted

To the Faculty of the
Homoeopathic Medical College
of
Pennsylvania
on the

Tenth day of January

One thousand eight-hundred & fifty three
By

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The science of obstetrics like other branches of medicine has received from Homoeopathy many valuable aids. Showing that a close study of its laws in connexion with the true principles of medicine will at no very distant day place the dangers of childbirth more under the control of physicians. Already the Homoeopathic physician, can treat cases of uterine hemorrhage, powerless labour, and retained placenta, with greater confidence of success; than can physicians of the other schools. When he comes to the treatment of a case of puerperal fever; one of the most dreaded of all diseases; he does

not fear and tremble with "saddle bags"
on his arm; but as if by magick he
forbids the disease its prey. Who shall
say when or where Homoeopathic medi-
cine shall cease its benign influence?
He only who shall discover a truer
and better system of cure. At pres-
ent Hahnemann has given us a law of
cure, as broad in its influence as man
can wish; and one which ranks well
with nature's fixed and divine laws.

By this law let it be our pleasure to
abide, especially if found on careful ex-
periment to be true and efficient. Thousands
are now ready to acknowledge its truth,
and trust their lives in its hands.

If you wish to hear how
a patient will contract to systems of
medicine; listen then to an intelligent

female who has borne three or four children under common Allopathic treatment; and an equal number under Homoeopathic practice. She will soon convince you which to her mind is best capable of conducting a patient easy and safe through the perils of labour.

Ask to, the competent Homoeopathic physician who need to treat his patients with Allopathic lancet and drugs: if he can perceive in the two systems a difference in safety of treatment.

You will not be surprised when he tells you that his experience is altogether in favour of Homoeopathy.

When a regular Allopath is called to a female in labour, he first looks at the tongue, feels of the

pulse, and if he finds the patient has a little too much heat, or shows signs of plethora; he very gravely announces to her, that she must be bled. And why? "Oh madam you have too much blood" "It will be quite necessary to reduce your strength." If she have in consequence a powerless labour does he think bleeding produced it? No not by any means. "She would have died of inflammation if not bled." A few hours after he has delivered the patient with instruments; if she show symptoms of putrid fever, he will bleed her again sufficient to produce fainting. If this does not answer his purpose, leeches must be applied, or a cup or two, and blood taken until she shall need bark and wine, perhaps brandy. In this

State of life and death he will keep her perhaps many days; either to die or live a victim of the treatment she so humbly and ignorantly believed was the best she could have. How many such cases are recorded on memoris page, as facts illustrative of regular medical education, or more properly medical ignorance. Then to think of the drugs, and compound mixtures, to be taken before dining, and after labour; which if the patient survive; will leave with her a remembrance so vivid; that the thought or mention of taking the like again would her stomach show quickly its aversion in manner not particularly pleasant. This sensitive state of the stomach is not of short duration. It follows

the patient many times to her grave.
Many a mother of six or eight children (It is a wonder under such treatment they live to have so many) dreads the very thought of medicine or the "Doctors Saddle bags" Why? Because at each confinement she was made the storehouse of the best wares of the drug shop. Is it strange that children and delicate females dread the sight of a "Doctor", and run and hide at the sound of his footsteps? Homoeopathic physicians hold no such dreaded influence over the innocent and pure of mankind. But on the contrary the invalid female and innocent child rush to them for health and life.

A medical man can easily point out, always the half-living

victim of drug and lancet disease.

Nor need any person look beyond the circle of his own friends to find such specimens. These unfortunate individuals have to suffer more or less all their days the pains and inconvenience of a ruined constitution. A chronic disease which faithful drug-worshipping nature cannot find power to banish.

Such persons are living monuments of Regular practice.

In speaking of the Allopaths use of mercury in parturition we are safe in saying that it is equal to the lancet in its evil effects. When taken in large doses it generally leaves the patient with a predisposition to mucous and glandular diseases. Consumption often follows its use. Persons suffering from the abuse

of this drug may be found in any school district in the United States. For the next ten years shall the number of such misguided individuals increase. I trust not if institutions like the Homoeopathic Medical College of Pennsylvania are properly encouraged and supported.

Already this heavy, regular drugging blood-spilling system, at the bedside of the paralytic patient, has been much modified by Homoeopathic influence. The lancet is not as often taken from its case, nor are the grains of drugs dealt out in such quantities.

But this reform you will observe is not produced, by increase of knowledge in the use of them; but from the fear of losing the patient into the hands of Homoeopathy.

A patient thus lost they know is as hard to obtain again; as if he had been taken by death. By this Homoeopathic influence the regular practice will be curtailed, and the humane family be relieved of a bondage worse than southern slavery.

It is common practice for Allopaths to commence the treatment of parturition with large doses of Morphia. In sensitive females I have no doubt it is often the exciting cause of convulsions. It produces also an unnecessary congestion of the brain, and consequent insensibility, which is generally followed in its secondary effect by great excitability of the nervous system, and sleeplessness.

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The fact of its power to make the patient unconscious of her condition, is generally the physicians guide, and main reason for giving it. Its secondary symptoms are not treated by him as those produced by the remedy; but as new symptoms of disease. Therefore these new indications of disease must receive due attention, and the patient be furnished with a fresh supply of drugs.

This fact is a very fair illustration of Allopathic knowledge and discrimination of the true effects of medicines.

Chloroform has become of late another valuable aid to regular Allopathic practice. By its use they can make their patients during labour as insensible as they please.

And by its secondary action obtain as high a state of nervous excitement as they could desire to treat. I am confident, Chloroform is a very dangerous article to a parturient female.

I know of three ladies who lost their lives from its use during labour. There seemed to be no return of the nervous system to a natural condition; but each continued in a high state of nervous excitement and sleeplessness; with great tenderness of the abdomen; delirium; and great sensitiveness to light and noise; untill death came to their relief. The above symptoms were produced I think wholly by the Chloroform.

May no true Homoeopath fall into the error of using so unfortunate an agent in parturition; unless applied

according to the true law of "Similia,"

Let its use in large quantities be confined where it best belongs; with the regular experimenting physician. By him only who wishes to leave his patient delivered in an unconscious state without the aid of her natural powers, and especially those belonging to her nervous system. Such practice will do well for Allopathy; but not for Homoeopathy. The true way is to keep the patient in possession of all her natural feelings and powers. If a female does not need all the aid of her muscular and nervous strength, during labour; surely I am unable to tell when she should expect to need it more.

An important truth in Allopathy, is the more drugs taken the

the sicker will be the patient, and therefore the more need of the kind attentions of the physician. This when the patient is provided of a good constitution it becomes truly a self-supporting and self-feeding system of medicine. One of vital importance to the drug vender, and his most efficient agent; the regular practitioner. Does the poor patient who takes all the drugs & pays all the bills, receive an equal amount of benefit? Her forever impaired constitution and empty purse will make the most truthful answer.

No such guilt can rest upon Homoeopathic practice. But on the contrary ^{it} is capable of restoring her from the ills thus caused.

Let us turn now to the consideration of Homoeopathic Obstetrics. We shall find it more pleasing to both patient and physician. And more in keeping with humanity and nature's divine laws.

The Homoeopath when called to his patient; makes it his first duty to ascertain the true state of the case, by obtaining all the symptoms. He then gives his best indicated remedy in a dose not large enough to make his patient worse; but in such a quantity as will make her soon better, by relieving her symptoms mildly and safely. He makes it a point also to remove all exciting causes of disease so far as possible. And when neces-

say puts his patient on a good and
nourishing diet. Not allowing any food
which is capable of producing disease
or symptoms. Under such treatment the
patient is able to endure the perils of
labour, and recover from its ills with
ease and safety. And ever after he
a firm believer in the teachings of
Homoeopathy, and by their wholesome
influence be forever delivered from
the pains of a drug-tortured life.

If the number of such patients in-
crease for ten years to come as fast
as they have for the past five; how
little there will be of heroic-regular
obstetrics, to torture the females of
this republic in the hour of their perils.

I believe it to be a fact that there
is not an intelligent female, who

has returned to Allopathy again for aid; after having been once treated during childhood by a good Homoeopathic Physician. People are fast becoming enlightened in regard to the true system of Obstetrics, by observing well treated cases, and daily facts, the good influence of which they cannot resist. The educated and observing of all classes help to compose its most prominent advocates and believers. Its advance and prosperity is as certain as that our females will yet have sons and daughters. It should be remembered that the sooner people are made acquainted with the great difference in medical treatment in obstetrics; the fewer will be the subjects of drug and

lancet abuse. Then can a class of mothers have the undoubted privilege of living to enjoy the society of their children; and thus realize their most darling wishes. And as death at last overtakes them, they will sink to rest as quiet and peacefully as a fading taper; retaining their faculties of mind and body free of all drug disease, and their crimson life, not spilt by medical ignorance, may support them, until waning vitality bids it forever rest.

By the proper employment of Homoeopathic remedies in parturition, the use of instruments are very much lessened. A fact of great importance, to a sensitive female

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And another not unimportant consideration in favour of Homoeopathic obstetrics.

Large doses of drugs have a very weakening effect upon the patient. But it is not thought by the physicians who give such doses, that they could produce a tedious or powerless labour, and thus make the use of instruments necessary. When this and similar facts are more generally known, the star of Homoeopathic obstetrics will have risen so high above the clouds of ignorance and prejudice, that no drugging or blood-spilling system can arrest it in its upward and useful course. Stay it not! For the innocent and helpless of mankind will be the happy recipients of its many

blessings. Let us give our time, talents and means to perfect one of the most valuable of all sciences; that of Homoeopathic obstetrics. And thereby retain for it the most sure and true of all influences among men. A Mothers influence. By this all absorbing power we may plant it within ^{the} bosom of society, where it may bud and blossom for the ultimate good of mankind. By emulating the science we also banish from society an ignorant and deadly practice, and remove to the unnecessary bondage of a truly tortured class of females.

Who has not a heart and hand for this good cause; surely none can refuse who choose to walk in the clear light of the law "Similia similibus curantur" Long live this sacred

law! By its pure teachings may we be
always able to make glad the hearts,
and soothe the ills of the invalid and
suffering mothers. Then as our earthly
task is finished, it will not be said
of us, that we lived for ourselves
alone, but lived to improve and
benefit our race, and thus do all
our Alma Mater could most desire

An Essay
on
Physiology of the Heart
Specially Designed
for the Faculty of the
Massachusetts Medical College
of
Boston
on the
Twenty-eighth day of January
A.D. one thousand eight hundred & fifty, the
first
by
V. H. H. H.
Fairfield New Jersey